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6 July 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR/INTELLIGENCE

Subject: Revision of NSC 29

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[redacted] and I conferred this morning with representatives of NSP, ORR, I & S, and [redacted], who has had 25X1A9a the coordinating responsibility for all CIA action on this policy. All present agreed that the present allocation of responsibility under paragraphs 7 and 8 of NSC 29 was funny and unsatisfactory. In the past, CIA has been asked to do things for which it was not suited, and has not been asked to do things it could effectively do. The group unanimously recommends the following order of procedure:

a. Determination of the importance of a particular facility. This should be done by ORR or State. (We should avoid any JIL commitment, although some foreign economic intelligence may occasionally be relevant.)

b. Survey of the Security of the Facility. Since this is analogous to plant security work habitually done by Defense, this should be taken away from State and given to Defense. Defense should be entitled to call on CIA for intelligence concerning communist activity in the area, of a detailed character found within NSC 5. (This would not need to be spelled out in the policy.)

c. Exploration of Overt Action Possibilities. This should be State's responsibility, and should include approaches to the local government and to the American companies involved. Only if it is made perfectly clear that such overt action will not meet the danger indicated in the survey will the question of covert activities be raised.

d. Covert Activities (Surveillance and Counter-Action if Required). If the overt action studies indicate a need for additional covert activity, and if it is also demonstrated that such activity would not involve possible diplomatic repercussions, company objections, or other security problems, then CIA should be directed to enter into such covert activities. (All concerned agreed that some mechanism to prevent hasty requests for covert action would be required,

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particularly in State's present budgetary plight. Perhaps State's requests for assistance could be reviewed by the new Operations Control Board when and if set up.)

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